

## **Simulation of Collaboratively Mining Visualized Data**

**Directions:** Your administration has tasked your PLC with reviewing school grade data (i.e., data on all students). Additionally, your grade has just completed a benchmark reading assessment [see 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Class Benchmark Report] and that data is available for each class [see 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Individual Class Reading Benchmark Report].

Please review the data and answer the questions that follow **as a team**. Please complete as a team and be ready to share your insights. Additional overview information is provided below.

### **Why collaborate?**

The purpose of collaboration is to enable educators to focus on high quality instructional practices of:

- building collective responsibility,
- sharing school commitments, and
- engaging in quality professional development.

The goal of collaboration is establishing, enhancing, or maintaining teacher-to-teacher trust and not failing our students. A data set that does not lead to a single conclusion has been chosen for today's work in order to lead to rich and authentic conversations.

### **Why simulate?**

The PURPOSE of the simulation is to engage participants in professional learning communities to model various real life applications of collaborative teaching that lead to improved student outcomes.

This simulation demonstrates how a school leadership team examines school-wide student performance data collaboratively to extract information that will inform instruction and school improvement planning.

There are three key assumptions guiding this simulation:

1. We all want to improve the work we do as educators.
2. We all want to be kind and courteous; to fulfill assumption #1, we also need to be thoughtful, insightful, and provocative.
3. We are all in this together. The effect of our work will be felt far beyond the realm of the educator whose work we are examining; it is OUR work that we are exploring, and the outcome will be improved learning for all of our students and ourselves. Using protocols is a truly collaborative practice.

The purpose of visualization of data is to enable educators to focus explicitly on the messages the data points may communicate.

Please remember, "data are meaningless by themselves and given meaning through the context in which they occur in instruction. Context transforms data into information that is useable to a decision maker. Educational data may be demographic, financial, personnel, annual, interim, or classroom level" (S. Jackson, 2011).

**Also for the purposes of the simulation we are going to ask the observers to collect information on an Observer's Notes Handout.**